

Examiner's Amendment

The Examiner has changed the title of invention from "Recording method and recording apparatus" to --RECORDING METHOD AND RECORDING APPARTUS THAT LIMITS NUMBER OF REWRITES TO THE SAME STORAGE AREA-- to more closely reflect the claimed invention. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

PART I THE EXAMINER'S EVALUATION OF THE APPLICATION

SECTION A RELEVANT ART CITED BY THE EXAMINER

1. U. S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0016841 A1 to Karasudani describes File system.
2. U. S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0219980 A1 to Kase et al. describes Data recording and reproducing apparatus, data recording and reproducing method and recording medium.

SECTION B DISTINGUISHING FEATURES RECITED IN THE CLAIMS

The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance See MPEP 1302.14

3. *The primary reasons for allowance of independent claims 1-2 in the instant application is the combination with the inclusion of the following limitations: (a)*

performing a search for unallocated areas in an information recording area and retaining, in a memory, unallocated area identifying information for identifying at least one unallocated area found by the search; (d) allocating unallocated areas identified in the search performed in step (a) with higher precedence than unallocated areas that have become unallocated areas only after the search performed in step (a).

4. *The primary reasons for allowance of independent claims 3-10 in the instant application is the combination with the inclusion of the following limitations: (d) searching for a new file recorded in the information recording area; and (e) generating a pointer indicating a position based on an end position of an area in which the new file is recorded, wherein the search for unallocated areas in the information recording area in step (a) is performed in a fixed direction from a position following the position indicated by the pointer.*

5. *The primary reasons for allowance of independent claims 11-12 in the instant application is the combination with the inclusion of the following limitations: (c) when an unallocated area satisfying a record request is present among the at least one unallocated areas identified by the unallocated area identifying information, allocating the unallocated area as an area for recording data and recording data into the allocated area, wherein the search for unallocated areas in the information recording area in step (a) is performed from a start of the information recording area in a fixed direction.*

6. *The primary reasons for allowance of independent claims 13-14 in the instant application is the combination with the inclusion of the following limitations: (a) performing a search for unallocated areas in an information recording area and retaining, in a memory, unallocated area identifying information for identifying at least one unallocated area found by the search; wherein the search for unallocated area in step (a) is performed from a start of the information recording areas in a fixed direction.*

The prior art of record including the disclosures of Karasudani (2001/0016841 and Kase et al. (2005/0219980 A1) neither anticipates nor renders obvious the above-recited combination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance"

PART II THE ATTENTION OF FUTURE CORRESPONDENT

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HASHEM FARROKH whose telephone number is (571)272-4193. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Sparks can be reached on (571)272-4201. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/H. F./
Examiner, Art Unit 2187

4/9/08

/Donald Sparks/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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